



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

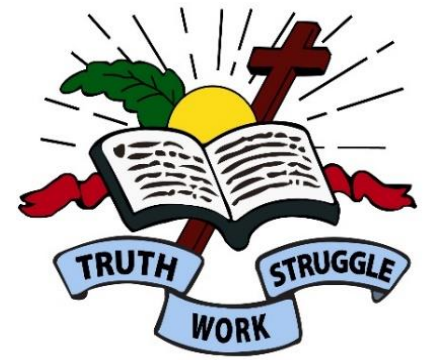
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March 15, 2020

Third Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

We drink liquids every day to sustain our bodily life. How much more eagerly, then, should we seek the water that never fails! It will become a splashing fountain within us, assuring our growth in faith and in love.

About Today's Bible Readings

EXODUS 17:3-7

Thirsty people often turn querulous, but can you blame them? We do need water to live. A gracious God eases his people's thirst with the gift of life giving water.

Responsorial Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

ROMANS 5:1-2, 5-8

In the waters of baptism, we first taste the results of Christ's death for sinners and his resurrection into holy glory.

JOHN 4:5-42

Jesus invites *us*, "Come to the water!" Drink and know thirst no more. Bathe and live forever. Believe and you will see God.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 42:2-3; Psalm 63:2

V. As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for You, O God. My being thirsts for God, the living God. When can I go and see the face of God?

R. O God, You are my God - for You I long! For You my body yearns; for You my soul thirsts like a land parched, lifeless, and without water.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TRACT – John 7:37-38

V. On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to Me and drink."

R. Whoever believes in Me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.' "

THE GOSPEL – John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.

(OVER)

Worship Services

TODAY March 15th

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday March 18th

Stations of the Cross

and

**Benediction of the
Most Blessed Sacrament**

7:00PM

SUNDAY March 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday March 25th

Stations of the Cross

and

**Benediction of the
Most Blessed Sacrament**

7:00PM

SUNDAY March 29th

Passion Sunday

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross each and every week leading up to Holy Week. I hope that everyone will plan on attending to join together as the one body of Christ and that you will urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well. This is a beautiful and moving form of worship and it helps to focus our thoughts and prayers on our Lord and Savior as we reflect on His Passion and Death.

God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

INTENTIONS:

My Brothers and Sisters: Our prayers are needed: For the increase in men called to the priesthood and diaconate of the Polish National Catholic Church; For the health and growth of our Parish; For all of the sick and homebound members of our Parish, our families and friends, especially John Czechowski, John Aldershoff, Tom Schalata, Donna Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Joe Brinsko and Walter Schilling.
Our Father...

If there are any other individuals who should be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, March 15th; Monthly Parish Committee Meeting, after the 9:30 Mass

This is the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the committee.

If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

A CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love, now and forever more.

AMEN.